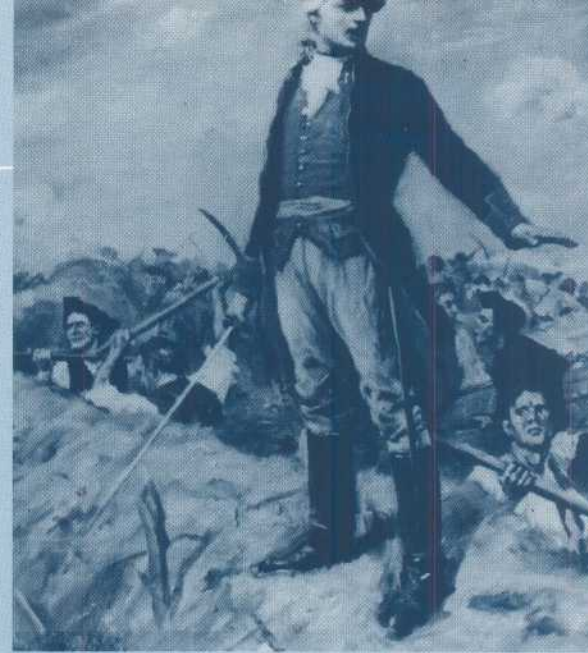


CORPS OF ENGINEERS HISTORICAL TIME LINE

1775

Congress established Continental Army with provision for a Chief Engineer (June 16). Richard Gridley named first Chief Engineer and oversaw fortification at the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Col. William Prescott at the Battle of Bunker Hill, painting by Frederick C. Yohn.



1779

Engineer officers and companies of sappers and miners formed into a Corps of Engineers.

1781

French and American engineer officers and sappers and miners played key role in successful Siege of Yorktown.

Battle of Bunker Hill.
1878 lithograph.

Library of Congress



The Continental Insurance Company

1783

Corps of Engineers mustered out of service along with most of the Continental Army.

1794

Unified Corps of Artillerists and Engineers established.

Plan of attack for Yorktown, drawn by Jean Baptiste de Gouvion, October 29, 1781.



National Archives



View of West Point, c. 1854 aquatint.

Library of Congress

1802

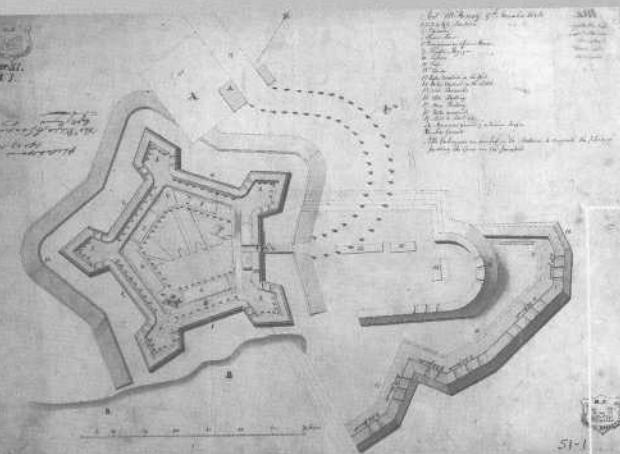
Permanent reestablishment of a separate Corps of Engineers and founding of U.S. Military Academy at West Point under Corps supervision.

1812-1815

War of 1812: Coastal harbors heavily fortified by engineers deterred British attack. Engineer officers first assumed command.

1819

Secretary of War John C. Calhoun's report on importance of waterways for national defense and commerce identified role for Army engineers.



Plan of Fort McHenry.

onal Archives

1819

Stephen H. Long's expedition up the Missouri River began Army engineer involvement in Western exploration.

1824

An act to improve the navigation of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers initiated permanent civil works construction mission.

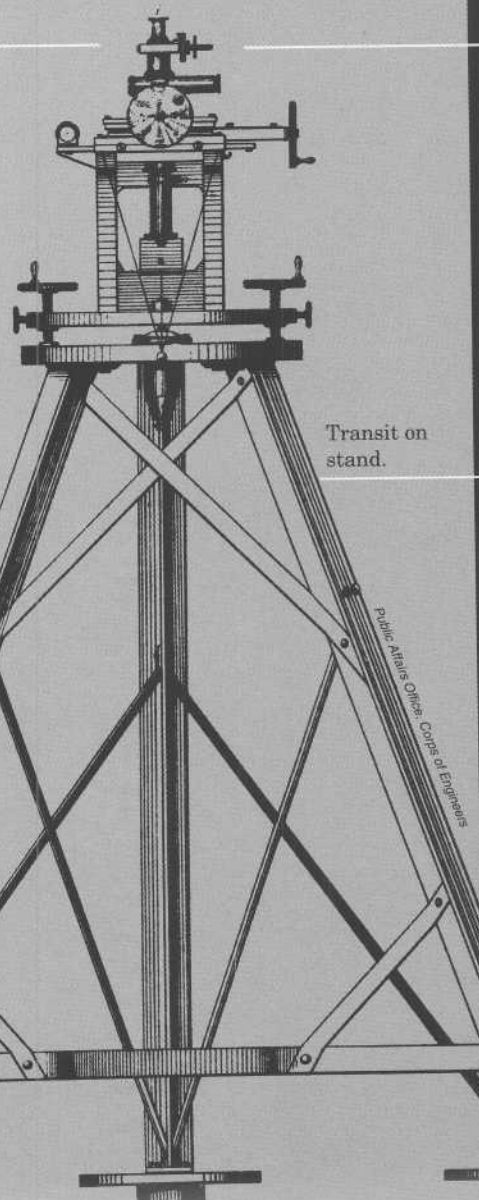
1824

General Survey Act authorized use of Army engineers to survey road and canal routes.



Steven H. Long.

Office of History, Corps of Engineers



Transit on stand.

Public Affairs Office: Office of Engineers

1825

Corps assumed responsibility for construction and repair of Cumberland Road.

1829

Corps launched first steam-powered snagboat *Helepolis* on the Mississippi River.

1838

Creation of separate Corps of Topographical Engineers under Colonel John J. Abert.

1840s

Fremont's expeditions to Rockies and beyond provided vital information on lands, peoples, and resources of the West.

1846

Creation of first company of regular Army engineer troops.

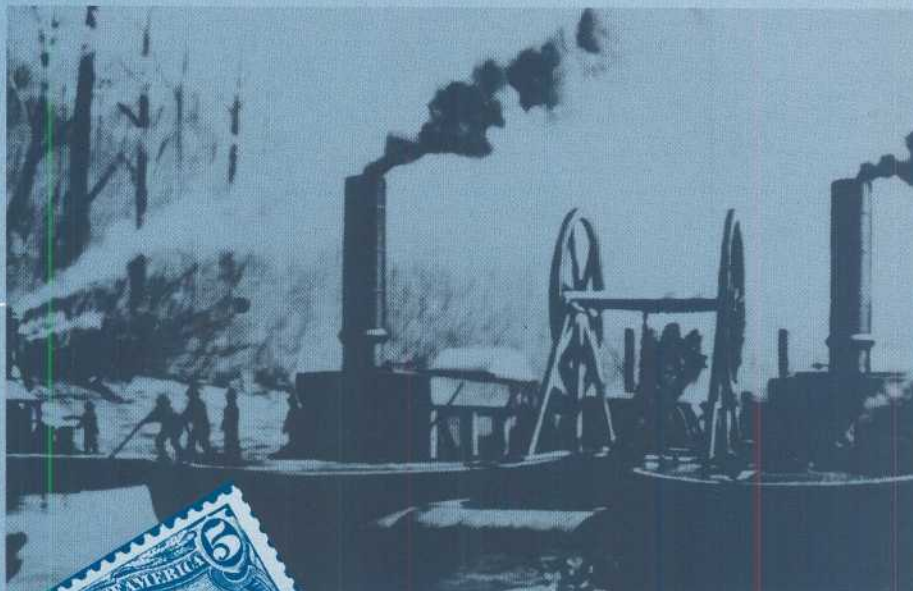
1846-1848

Mexican War: Engineer regulars erected fortifications and joined in assaults. Officers performed key reconnaissance missions.

1853

District of Columbia water supply work commenced as forerunner of Corps' Washington Aqueduct Office.

Shreve's snagboat *Helepolis*.



Smithsonian Institution

1893 stamp depicting John C. Fremont's ascent of Snow Peak.



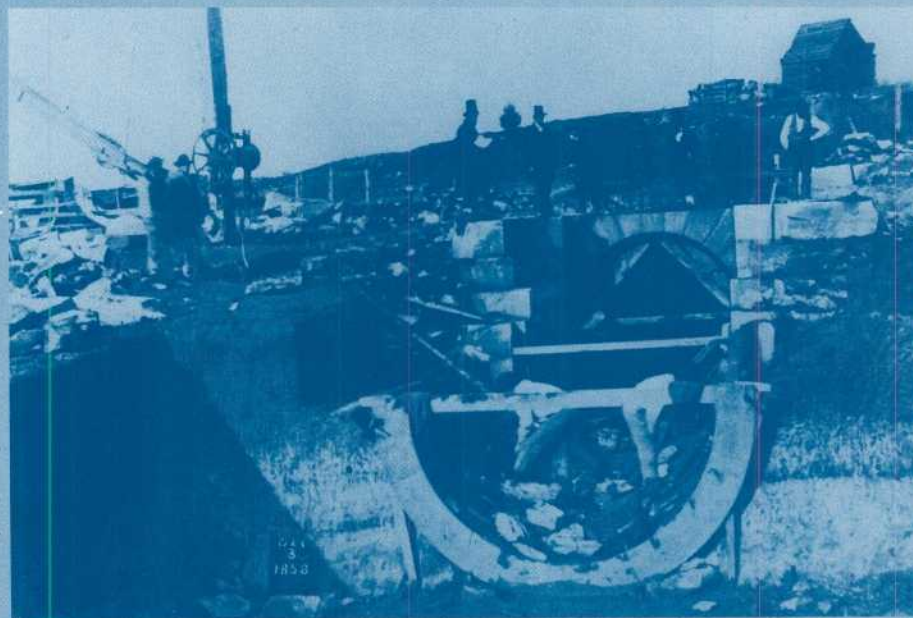
Siege of Vera Cruz, 1847.

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Influent gate house, Georgetown Reservoir, December 1858.

Office of History, Corps of Engineers





Office, Corps of Engineers

Joining of Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads at Promontory Point, Utah.



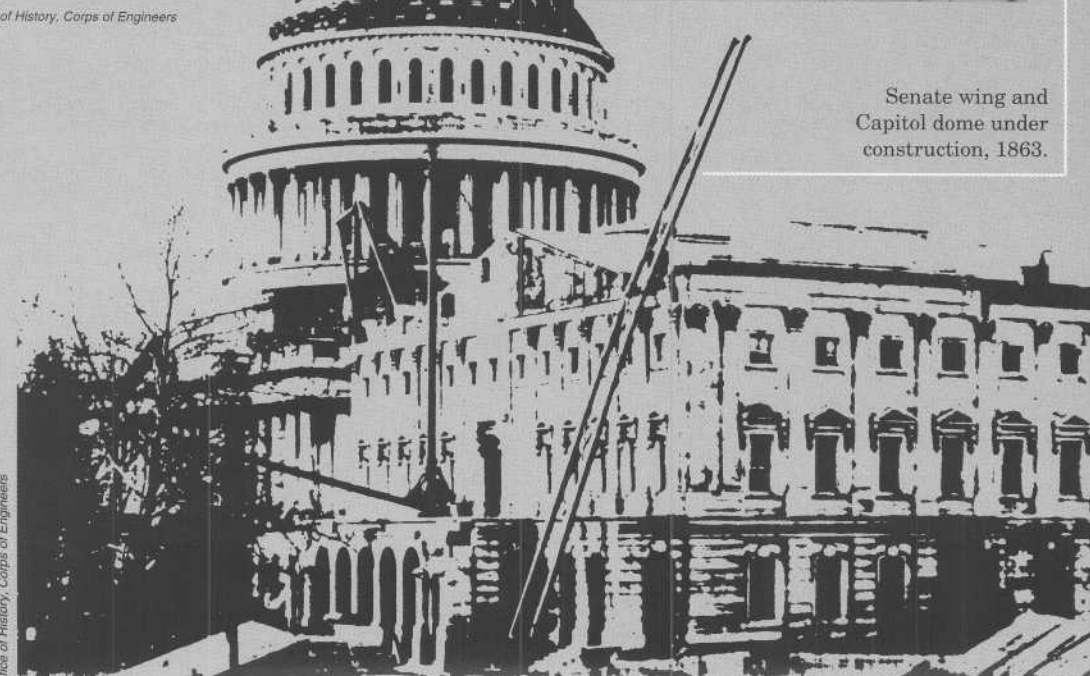
U.S. Military Academy Library

Gouverneur K. Warren, as a cadet.

Company A, U.S. Engineers, 1865.



of History, Corps of Engineers



Senate wing and Capitol dome under construction, 1863.

1853-1858

Pacific Railroad surveys involved topographical engineers in detailed documentation of the West.

1857

Lieutenant Gouverneur K. Warren completed his map of the northern plains, the most detailed and accurate to date.

1861

Humphreys-Abbot *Report Upon the Physics and Hydraulics of the Mississippi River* argued that only levees were necessary to prevent flooding.

1861-1865

Civil War: A battalion of regular Army engineer troops with various volunteer engineer and pioneer units cleared obstacles, constructed roads and bridges, laid down ponton bridges, and erected field fortifications. Several engineer officers commanded combined troops while others conducted reconnaissance and directed siege operations.

1863

New Capitol dome completed under supervision of Montgomery C. Meigs.

1863

Army engineers constructed 2,200-foot ponton bridge over the James River, probably the longest ponton bridge in the history of warfare.

1863

Corps of Engineers and Corps of Topographical Engineers reunified.

1866

Engineer School of Application founded at Willets Point, New York. Chief of Engineers' role as Inspector at West Point ended as superintendency of the academy opened to all branches of the Army.

1867

Control of District of Columbia public parks and monuments given to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds under the Chief of Engineers.

1875

Captain William Ludlow's expedition to Yellowstone identified critical need to protect and improve the park.

1878

Three-person commission, including an engineer commissioner, replaced elected government in the District of Columbia.

1879

Mississippi River Commission created to execute a comprehensive flood control and navigation plan on the Lower Mississippi.

Ponton bridge across the James.

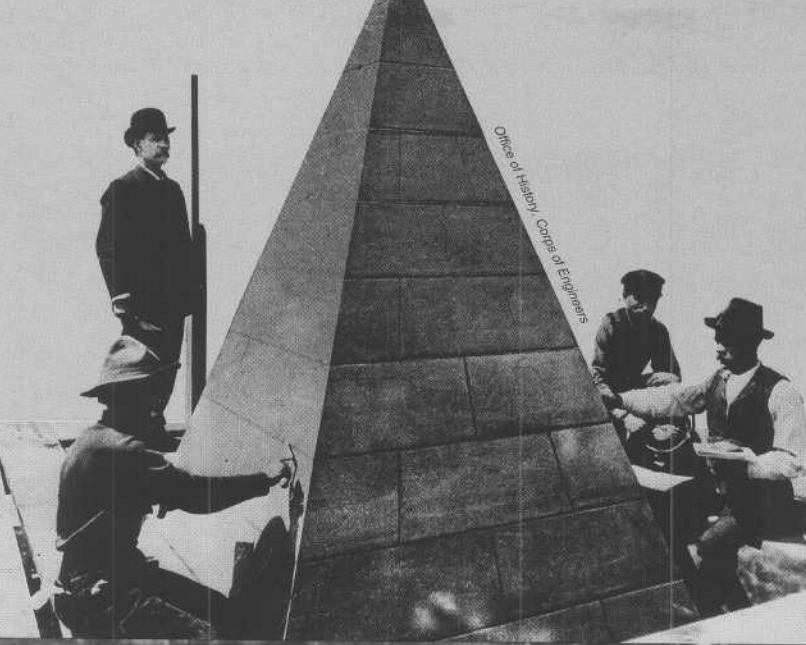
Falls in Yellowstone.

Major General Quincy A. Gillmore, first president of the Mississippi River Commission.

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Public Affairs Office, Corps of Engineers



Office of the Chief of Engineers, Corps of Engineers

Workmen pointing tip of Washington Monument.

1882

In first authorized emergency operation, Corps used Mississippi fleet to deliver relief to flood victims.

1883

Congress designated Corps to make improvements in Yellowstone Park.

1884

Construction of Washington Monument completed.



Timber dam at Leech Lake.

Minnesota Historical Society

1884

First Corps reservoirs completed at Winnibigoshish, Leech Lake, and Pokegama, Minnesota.

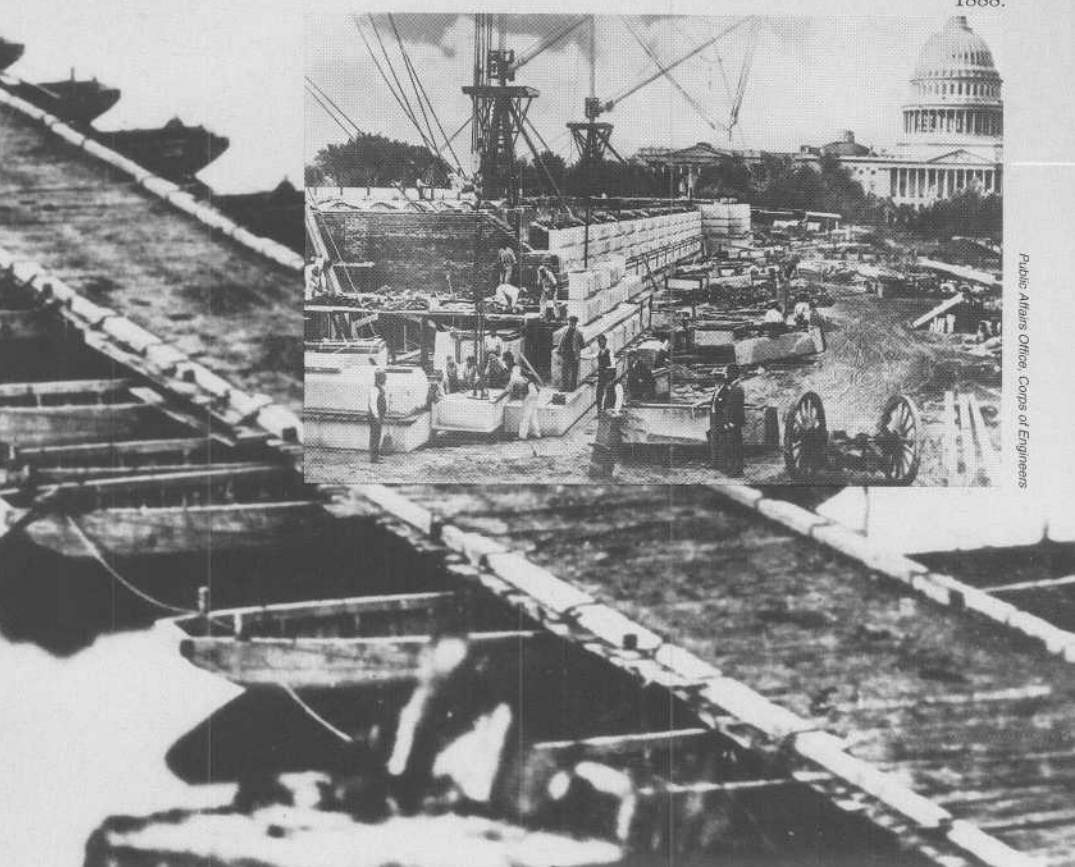
1885

Davis Island Lock and Dam just south of Pittsburgh completed as the largest chanoine wicket dam in the world.

Library of Congress under construction, 1888.

1888

Chief of Engineers created five engineer divisions based on geographical regions.



Public Affairs Office, Corps of Engineers

1897

Library of Congress completed.

1898

Spanish–American War: Army engineers erected landing piers, built bridges and roads, and repaired and operated railroads from Cuba and Puerto Rico to the Philippines.

1899

Refuse Act gave Corps authority to regulate obstructions to navigation.

1901

Engineer School moved from Willets Point to Washington Barracks.

1902

Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors established to examine cost, benefits, and the need to improve waterways. (Disestablished in 1993.)

1911

Using revolutionary cofferdam design, Corps raised wreck of the battleship *Maine* in Havana harbor.

1914

Panama Canal completed under supervision of Army engineer officers.

1917

Congress passed first federal flood control act.

U.S. Army
ferry in the
Philippines.



U.S. Military Academy Library



Culebra Cut,
Panama
Canal.

High water
in Hickman,
Kentucky,
1912.



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Engineering survey party in Sussex, England, 1918.



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1917-1918

World War I: Army engineers served in combat; built ports, roads, and railroads; organized first U.S. Army tank units; and developed chemical warfare munitions.

1919

Engineer School moved to Camp Humphreys (later renamed Fort Belvoir).

1925

Wilson Dam completed with major hydroelectric power component at Muscle Shoals on the Tennessee River.

1927

Congress authorized 308 Reports to present plans for multipurpose improvement of navigable streams.

1927

Flood devastated Mississippi River and demonstrated insufficiency of "levees only" policy.



Installing Wilson Dam power generators.

Flooded streets in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, 1927.

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1928

Jadwin Plan accepted for controlling flooding on the Mississippi using floodways and spillways in addition to levees.

1929

Nine-foot navigation project completed on the Ohio River.

1930s

Corps' New Deal public works program included Fort Peck, Bonneville, Conchas, and Tygart projects.

1936

Flood Control Act made flood control a federal policy and officially recognized the Corps as the major federal flood control agency.

1939

Nine-foot navigation project completed on the Upper Mississippi.

1940

Corps took over airfield construction from the Quartermaster Corps' Construction Division.

1941

Corps took over all real estate acquisition, construction, and maintenance for Army facilities.

1942

Manhattan Engineer District created to oversee construction of production facilities for the atomic bomb.

1942

Engineers completed a 1,500-mile pioneer road, called the Alaska or ALCAN Highway, between Dawson Creek, British Columbia, and Fairbanks, Alaska.

Major General
Edgar Jadwin.



National Portrait Gallery

President Franklin D. Roosevelt inspects model of Passamaquoddy Tidal Power Project, Maine.



Office of History, Corps of Engineers

250-ton roller
at work.



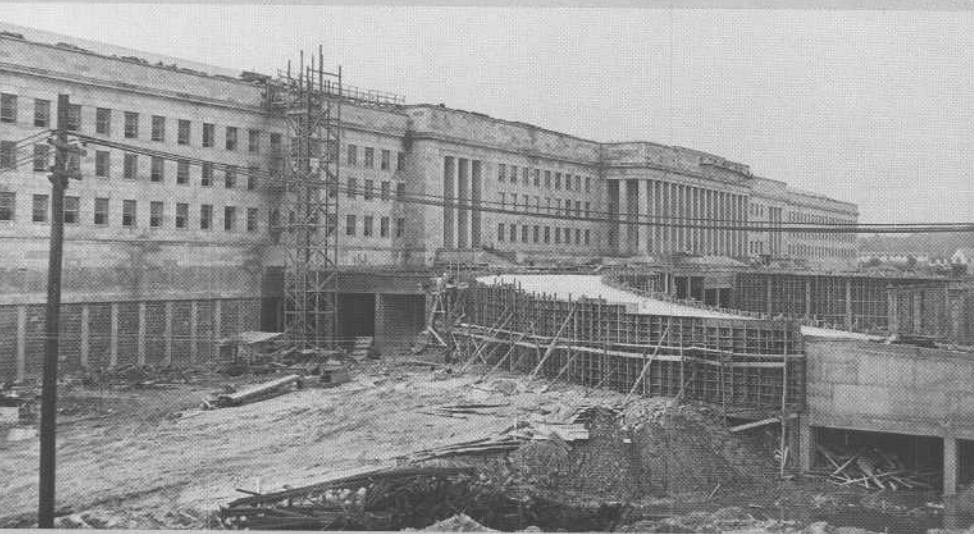
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Clearing
land for
Alaska
Highway.



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Pentagon under construction.



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1943

Construction of the Pentagon completed 15 months after groundbreaking.

1944

Flood Control Act authorized Corps to develop recreation facilities on Corps' projects and to develop water projects in the Missouri River Valley in accordance with the Pick-Sloan Plan.

1945

Construction, begun in late 1942, completed on Ledo Road, stretching through some of the world's most difficult terrain from the northeast corner of India to a junction with the old Burma Road near the Chinese border.

1946

Corps began hospital construction program for the Veterans Administration.

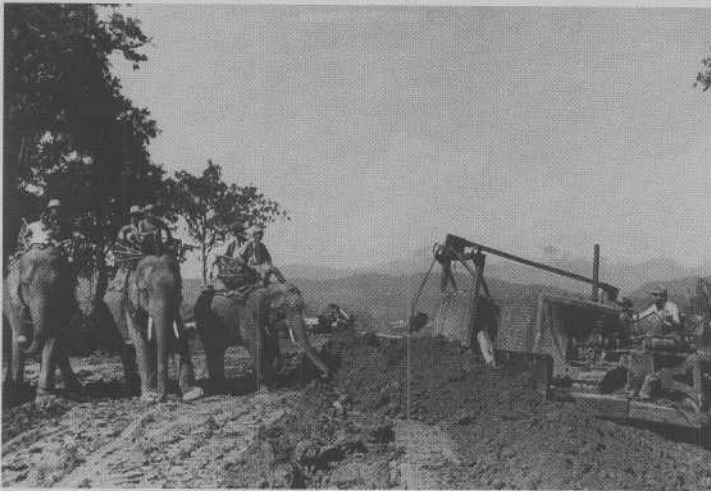
1946-1949

Corps' Grecian District supervised postwar construction to restore damaged Greek transportation and communication network as check on Soviet expansion.

1950-1953

Korean Conflict: Engineers destroyed bridges and mined roads to obstruct the enemy and built bridges and roads to assist advance of American forces. Engineers frequently fought as infantry.

Elephant-mounted survey party and bulldozer on the Ledo Road, North Burma.



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The dredge *Poseidon* clearing the Corinth Canal, 1947.



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Combat engineers lay wire along defense perimeter, Korea, 1952.



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1950s

Corps built early warning facilities and air bases in Greenland, Morocco, and Libya.

1952

Corps assigned responsibility for the Army Nuclear Power Program.

1958

Corps completed work on the American portion of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

1960 (next page)

Corps of Engineers Ballistic Missile Construction Office established to build launch sites and related facilities for intercontinental ballistic missiles.

1961

Foreign Assistance Act initiated Corps involvement in reimbursable programs through the State Department's Agency for International Development (AID).

Hangar at
Nouasseur,
Morocco,
December 1952.

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Construction of
SM-1 Nuclear
Power Plant, Fort
Belvoir, Virginia.

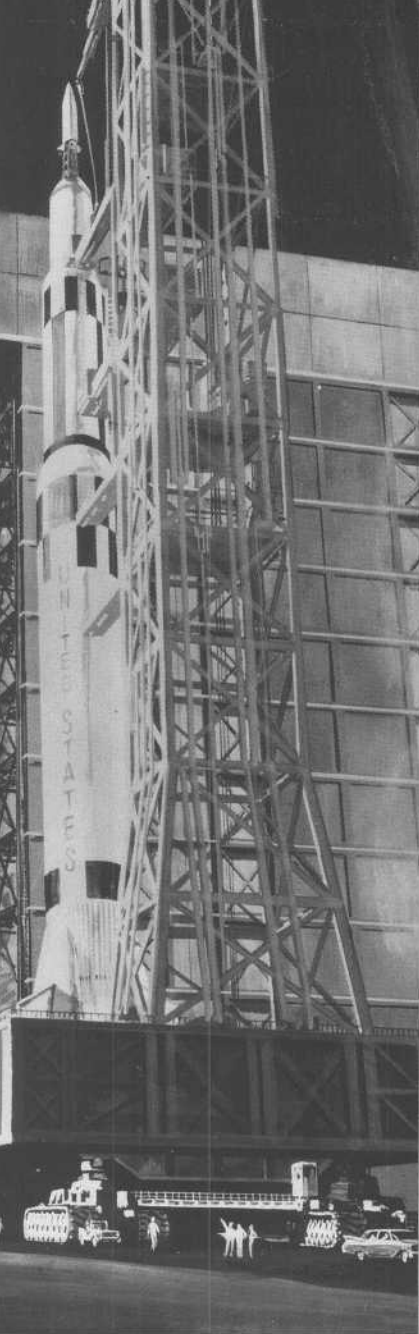
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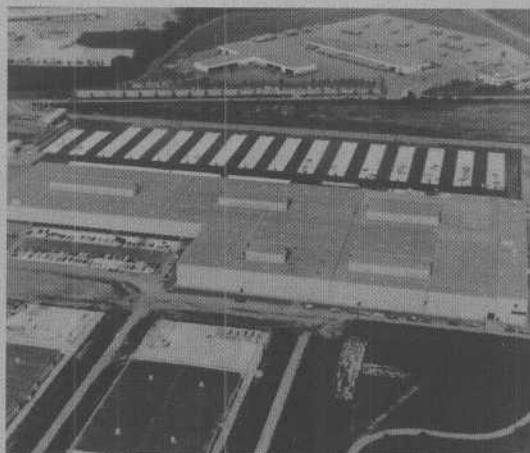
Soo Locks,
Sault Ste. Marie,
Michigan, today.

Public Affairs Office, Corps of Engineers

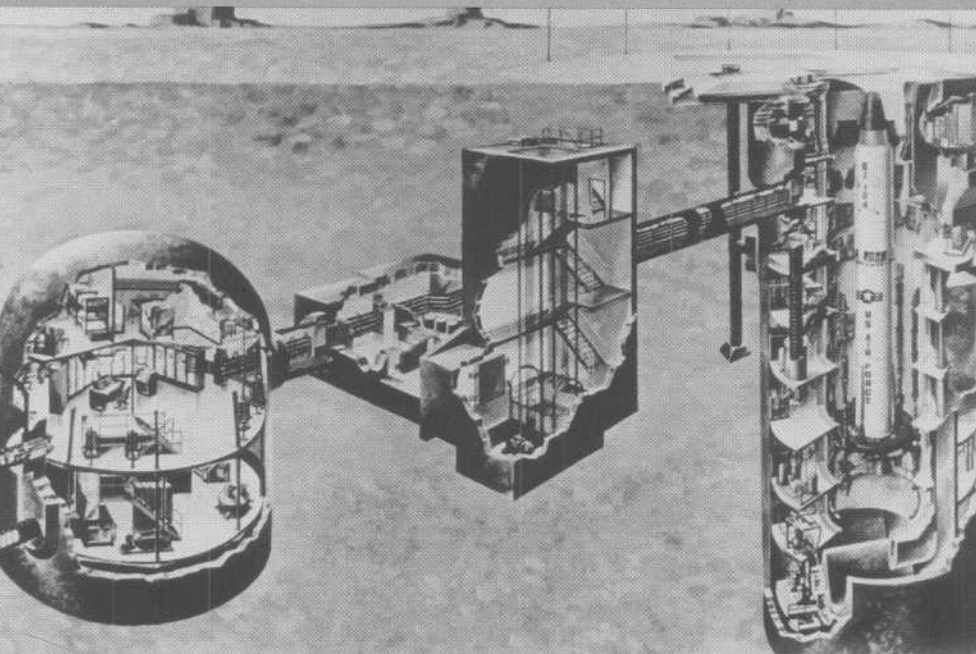




Vehicle
Assembly
Building,
Saturn
complex 39.



Cincinnati
Bulk Mail
Center.



Titan II
silo.

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1961

Corps began construction support for NASA leading to major activities at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas, and John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

1962

In Army reorganization Corps lost control of Engineer School and engineer troops but retained responsibility for engineering, construction, and real estate services required by the Army, Air Force, and NASA.

1967

Rome Plow introduced to enhance engineer jungle-clearing operations during Vietnam War.

1970

National Environmental Policy Act, signed on January 1, instituted requirement for environmental impact statements.

1971-1976

Corps constructed bulk-mail handling centers for the U.S. Postal Service.

1972

Clean Water Act of 1972 authorized Corps to regulate dredging and dumping activities in U.S. wetlands.

1975

Corps redesignated as a combat arms branch.

1975

First Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works named to position originally created in 1970 legislation.

1976

Middle East Division established in Riyadh as Saudi construction program expanded. (Disestablished in 1986.)

1979

Corps of Engineers became an Army major command (MACOM).

1982

Design and construction effort begun in support of Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund cleanup program.

1982

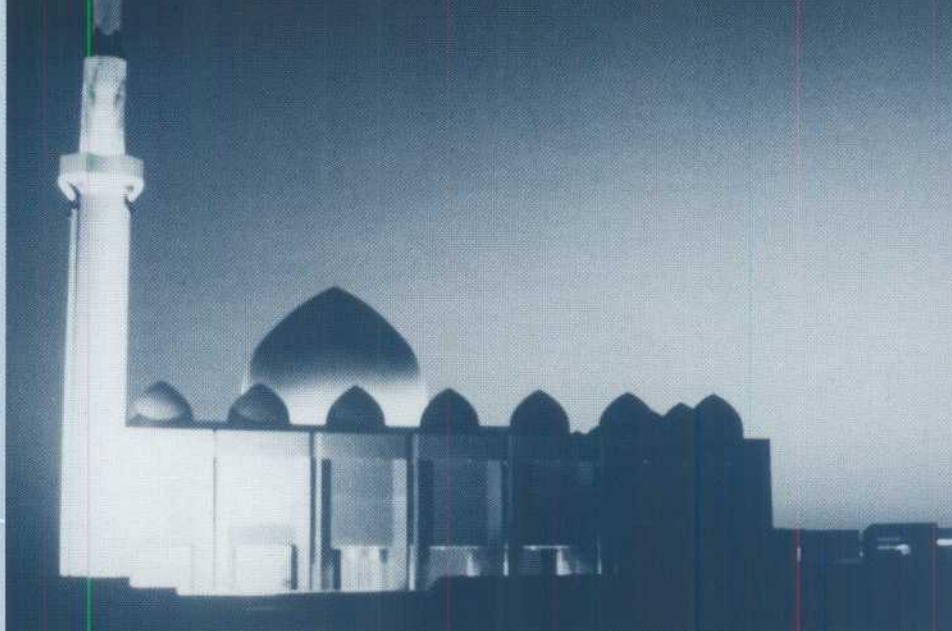
Israeli air bases completed in program initiated in 1979 by Camp David Accords.

1983

Defense Environmental Restoration Program enlarged the Corps' environmental work relating to military installations.

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Main mosque, King Abdul Aziz Military Academy, Saudi Arabia.



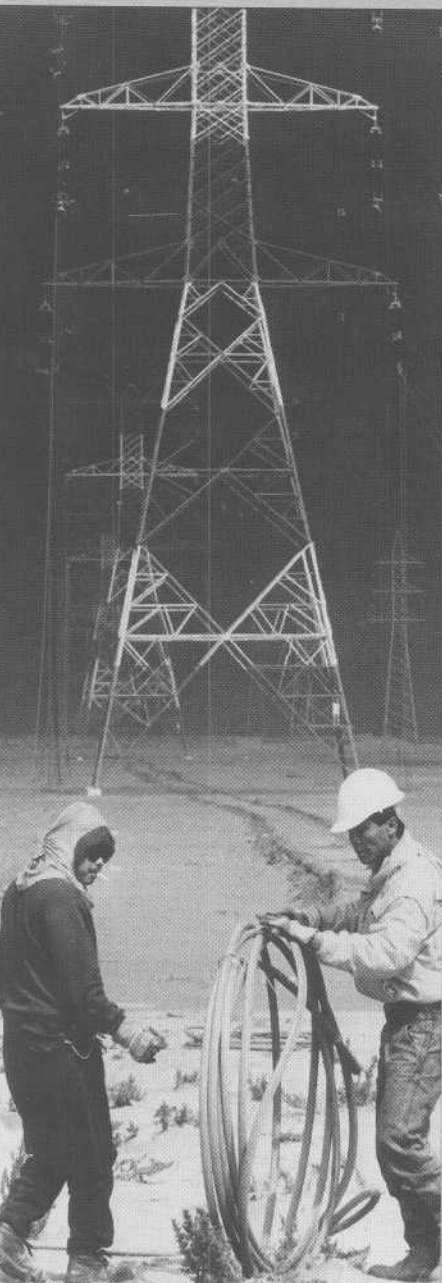
Distinctive unit insignia for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Jet landing at Oyda Air Base.



Office of History, Corps of Engineers



Jonas Jordan, Savannah District

Corps contractors repair heavily damaged power lines, Kuwait, 1991.

Tennessee-Tombigbee's Gainesville spillway under construction.



Public Affairs Office, Corps of Engineers



Mobile home destroyed by Hurricane Andrew, Homestead, Florida, 1992.

Public Affairs Office, Corps of Engineers

1985

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, largest navigation project in Corps' history, completed 13 years after construction started in 1972.

1986

Water Resources Development Act brought major change in financing by requiring nonfederal contributions toward most federal water resources projects.

1988

The Engineer School relocated to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

1990-1991

Corps provided contract construction and real estate support during Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

1991

Recovery effort in Kuwait initiated through the Kuwait Emergency Recovery Office. Transatlantic Division established in Winchester, Virginia.

1992

Corps undertook major disaster recovery in wake of Hurricane Andrew and Hurricane Iniki.

1993

Assistant Chief of Staff/Installation Management Office created on Department of the Army staff. This absorbed many of the functions of the Assistant Chief of Engineers.

1996

Official ground breaking ceremony for the Olmsted Lock, the last major lock modernization project on the Ohio River in a program begun in the 1950s.